



EGYPT

مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
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**Statement of the Delegation of the
Arab Republic of Egypt**

**At the Third Committee
Agenda Item 66: Racism**

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Mr. Chairman

At the outset, my delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement of South Africa on behalf of the G.77. It also would like to commend the Special Rapporteur for his two very important reports before us, which present us with a very deep and forthcoming vision on how to deal with this fundamental issue.

Mr. Chairman

Today we are discussing some issues that we delayed giving its due priority on the international agenda, that is to say racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. The first is based on the feeling of racial superiority, the second on individual or collective superiority, while the third is based on cultural superiority. Despite that, these three scourges are still threatening with an abhorrent political and cultural clash based on man's contempt for his fellow man, superiority, arrogance and extremism.

Despite the serious and important steps that were initiated since the entrance into force of the Convention on Slavery until the adoption of the Durban Declaration, and other international efforts, we have not yet adequately eliminated the social scourges. What is more alarming is the rise of some indicators that reflect a rise in the phenomena of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. We are witnessing today a gradual increase of ultranationalist-rightist, extremist and racist movements that instigates hatred for foreigners and discrimination against them on the basis of religion, belief and language. Moreover, we are also witnessing a blur in the line separating the fight against terrorism on the one hand and unaccounted discrimination against peoples and individuals on religious and racial basis which is causing a tensions between civilizations and religions. It is therefore necessary to actively confront any thought or action that aims at legitimizing racism and xenophobia, as well as confronting the phenomena of the relationship between defamation of religions and their figures on the one hand, and the rising phenomena of racism and xenophobia and intolerance on the other. The report of the special rapporteur affirmed this problem and the existence of a causal link between both. This clearly shows that religious defamation has become a tool for instigating xenophobia and violence against certain believers and races under security pretexts. As a result people are being stigmatized and subjected to social and security harassments, and a politicization processes of such issues as migration, asylum and defense of state identity policies are coming into place. All these are phenomena that need a strong stand to confront such a rising trend.

Mr. Chairman

The most worrisome of all these trends is that the majority have come out from well rooted democracies that have put human rights at the top of its political and social agenda. This reflects the need for a political will to function along side establishing democracy and respect of human rights so as to be able to combat this social disease. The

report of the special rapporteur affirmed that such a move needs to be complemented with a cultural, ethical and intellectual framework to confront such new trends. In this regard the freedom of education and media should not be without limits in this regards to the extent of advocating racism, xenophobia and hatred for religions and prophets since this will leads to intentional confusion on fundamental issues which should be complementary and non-conflicting.

Mr. Chairman

We can not discuss racism and racial discrimination and intolerance without mentioning what the Palestinian people are being subjected to on the basis of religion or race or thought. If the majority of these victims are suffering from such injustices outside their homes, the Palestinian people is suffering this injustice at his homeland perpetrated by a ruthless occupying force that is indifferent to legal or moral or humanitarian bases that have been approved. A small example to illustrate this is the continuation of building the racial segregation wall that has separated families and divided the unity of the Palestinian people to maintain the national identity of the Israeli state in an occupied land at the expense of the national unity of the Palestinian people. We look forward to the day when the usurped rights of the Palestinian people from land to state to peace will be restored, thereby putting an end to the daily racial, religious and humanitarian violations perpetrated against this people.